

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Date of Elections: 28 August 1983

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament for the first time since a national legislature was chosen in September 1968 and subsequently dissolved.

Characteristics of Parliament

Under the terms of the 1982 Constitution*, the unicameral Parliament of Equatorial Guinea, the House of Representatives of the People, comprises 41 members elected for 5 years.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In August 1979, as a result of a coup d'Etat led by Lieutenant-Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema, President of the Republic Francisco Macias Nguema (in power since 1968) was deposed and the 1973 Constitution declared void. The country was thereafter governed by a Supreme Military Council until the current Constitution was adopted in August 1982.

In the 1983 elections, candidatures (one per constituency) were decided upon by President Obiang Nguema. There were no political parties. Voters on polling day reportedly totalled approximately 50,000.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XVII* (1982-1983), p. 9.